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REPORT


OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

for the Year 1943,

BY

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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BY

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., also
M.O.H. of Hove

SURVEYOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., C.R.S.I.

PHYSICIANS TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRES—

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

Miss D. A. CAREW HUNT, M.D., London.

HEALTH VISITORS AND SCHOOL NURSES—

Nurse TURNER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate

Nurse GUEST, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1943.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1943, the fourth dealing with a complete year since the war began. According to the Vital Statistics of the area there is no evidence of any general deterioration in the health of the community and judging from the appearance of the children and the absence of any specific diseases which can be attributed to war conditions there is no marked malnutrition. On the other hand it cannot be gainsaid that many adults, particularly in the older age groups, are feeling tired and are lacking in energy—a result of the strain and stress of life combined with or contributed to by a diet which, if adequate, is lacking in variety.

The Death and Birth Rates are slightly lower than last year's but the Infant Mortality is only 27·5 per 1,000 Births, a record due in part to increased family incomes and the provision of additional Milk and Vitamins. It should be our duty to see that when the war ends unemployment does not lead to a rise in this rate.

Infectious Diseases again were on a low level—Scarlet Fever increased in prevalence but was mild in type, and there was only 1 case of Diphtheria notified. Measles was epidemic in the Spring and Summer but of the 155 cases known to the Sanitary Department only 14 were under 2, the age at which it is most likely to be fatal, and there were, in fact, no deaths from either Measles or Whooping Cough during the year.

Between 1940—1942 a strenuous campaign had been conducted to induce parents to allow their children to be immunised against Diphtheria and the response in these 2

years was so good that it left very few to be protected in 1943 except babies under 12 months and a further 241 of these and 141 school children were dealt with in the year. It is estimated that about 90% of the children under 5, and 70% of those between 5—14 have been immunised up to date.

Tuberculosis cases of all forms increased from 10 to 23, the rise being most marked in the Non-Pulmonary Forms among children up to the age of 15, and in Females 25—35 in the Pulmonary type. The numbers under review are small and no unduly pessimistic inferences need be drawn from the figures, especially when it is remembered that they refer to a population from which on the one hand the most healthy have been drawn into the services and on the other that employment not always the most suitable is available to all whatever their condition of health. It is the factors of long hours in unaccustomed work, overstrain and black-out conditions which are responsible for individual breakdowns rather than malnutrition.

The Casualty Branch of Civil Defence, has again to record a year of mainly standing by but they have nevertheless managed to retain their efficiency, and by constant training will give a good account of themselves if the occasion arises.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS		Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{ Legitimate	164	79	85
	{ Illegitimate	18	10	8

Birth-rate 17.1

Stillbirths :—5 Rate per 1,000 births—27.5.

DEATHS	125	57	68
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Corrected Death Rate 11.8

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth :—

From Sepsis : none. From other causes : 1.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—5

Rate per 1,000 births : Total 27.5

Deaths from

Measles (all ages)	...	...	none
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	none
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

DRAINAGE

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :—

There are 10 houses served by 6 cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act. Two houses draining into a cesspool were completely redrained and connected to the sewer during the year. the cesspool being filled in.

In addition there are 9 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board

SANITARY INSPECTION—The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :—

Houses inspected for housing defects	...	234
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts		391
Houses inspected after complaints	...	117
Premises disinfected	...	30
Informal notices issued (Housing & P.H. Acts)		147
Statutory notices issued	, , ,	6
Houses found dirty	...	70
„ with insufficient bin	...	64
Drains defective	...	55
Closets	...	24
Sinks	...	12
Roofs and Gutters defective	...	37
Paving of Yards defective	...	5
Damp & Defective Walls, Ceiling, Floors, etc.		55
Offensive Accumulations	...	3

RATS AND MICE (Destruction Act, 1919)

An intensive drive to destroy Rats and Mice was commenced this year throughout the district, the rats being first prebaited and finally poisoned. The results have been highly satisfactory. A part-time Rodent Operator has been engaged for this work and both he and the Sanitary Inspector have attended a Course in Rat Destruction organised by the Ministry of Food. A small charge to cover the cost of baits and poisons, etc., is made for this work in accordance with the Rats & Mice Destruction Act.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 4 Council Houses were found to be infested to a varying degree and 52 Non-Council Houses. The whole of these houses were disinfected as follows :—
- (2) By removing or easing all woodwork, skirting-boards, architraves, etc., and thoroughly spraying with special liquids.

In all cases the work has been carried out by the Council and in the case of Non-Council Houses the cost of materials used has been charged to the Landlord.

- (3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses, are that, all premises and furniture of persons about to move into Council Houses are inspected prior to removal

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	234
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				378
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	89
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose				89
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...			---
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	..	...	...	234

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	194
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*

A-Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	36
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	4
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B-Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	111
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :	
(a)	By Owners	6
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C-Proceedings under sections 11, and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	0

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :—	
(a)	To render the house fit for human habitation	0
(b)	As to usage other than for human habitation	0

D-Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—OVERCROWDING

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	8
(ii)	Number of families therein	13
(iii)	Number of persons	75
(b)	Number of new cases reported during the year	13
(c) (i)	Number of cases relieved	12
(ii)	Number of persons concerned	86

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY—There are only 2 farms in the district from which milk is supplied ; these are kept in a satisfactory condition.

There are 4 dairies in the district, 2 Cowkeepers, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 19 Retailers and Dairymen who deliver milk in this district, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

MEAT.—There are two Slaughter-houses in the district These were closed immediately after the outbreak of War

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :

120 lbs of Sultanas, 26 lbs of Margarine, $4\frac{3}{4}$ lbs of Prunes, $2\frac{3}{4}$ lbs of Bacon, 38 lbs of Mutton, 21 lbs of Beef, 16 bags of Flour, 32 jars of Pickles, 171 tins of Food, 18 bottles of Mineral Water

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1943.

DISEASE	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Re- moved Hospit'l	De'ths
Scarlet Fever ...	40		1				25	11	1	2				15	
Erysipelas ...	9							1		1	1	6			
Pneumonia ...	22		1				3			3	4	6	5		9
Diphtheria ...	1								1					1	
Puerperal Pyrexia															
Ophthalmia neon- tatorum ...															
Measles ...	155	5	9	27	13	24	65	7	1	3		1		1	
Whooping Cough	16	2	3	1	4	1	5							1	
	243	7	12	30	17	25	98	19	3	9	5	13	5	18	9

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

Age Periods		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M	F.
0	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
5	...	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	...	2	4	—	—	2	—	—	—
35	...	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
45	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		7	9	4	3	3	1	—	—

